



It has occurred to me since forwarding my last contribution that in animadverting on travellers who have inflicted serious and irreparable damage on Egyptian tombs, for the sake of procuring specimens for museums, I may have been supposed to intend some reference to Sir Charles Nicholson, who has munificently enriched our University Museum, with his large and instructive collection of Egyptian and other antiquities. This inference (if any one has drawn it) would be quite wrong. In the whole of that fine collection I have not met with a single specimen that has been obtained by destroying or injuring any work of art. There is, in fact, no example (that I can find) of fresco painting from walls of tombs—a circumstance which, perhaps, may be regretted, as many tombs are already in such a state of ruin that a few sculptured and painted slabs might be abstracted without further harm; but Sir Charles has laid himself open to no imputation either of injuring works of art, or of carrying off objects that would have been more instructive to future travellers if left in their original positions.

March 9th.—Another cloudy day. Therm. 66° at 10 a.m. and 78° at 4 p.m. Accompanied by a tolerably intelligent guide, named Mohammed Ali, I mounted my donkey, and rode to the hill called Drab Abo Negga behind Gournah. Here I visited a tomb called Mariette's, being, I suppose, discovered by him. The chamber, being excavated in rock of a friable character, had its walls lined with crude brick and stuccoed. The colouring of the roof and the pictures on the walls were clean and bright. The owner of the tomb and his wife are seated together, and people are offering them flowers. There is a band of ten musicians—the largest band I have yet seen depicted—comprising two richly-painted harps, one played by a woman standing, the other (of different construction) by a man sitting or squatting; two guitars, played by a man and woman; one woman plays a lyre of nine strings, and another a sort of guitar, supported horizontally on her shoulder. Three of the musicians are represented as simply clapping their hands, but perhaps they sing also. In other parts of the tomb we find processions bearing offerings to gods and mummies—bread, flowers, fruit, elegant vases, &c. At the end of the tomb are two royal portraits—one black, and the other red. Beside the former, I noticed the cartouche of Amunoph I., and as his mother was a black Ethiopian princess, he himself may have been almost black. The red figure had beside it the cartouche of Thothmes III. In all these tomb-paintings red is the usual conventional colour of an Egyptian man and yellow that of an Egyptian woman.

Climbing to the top of the hill, we examined two of the ruined pyramids of crude brick—one having an arched central chamber—which Wilkinson says cannot be of later date than 1200 B.C. We also looked into several grottoes, but found no sculpture or paintings. The oldest coffin yet discovered at Thebes was found on this hill side a few years ago; it bore the name of one of the Nanties of the eleventh dynasty, more than 2800 years B.C. On the head of the mummy was a golden circlet formed of asps symbolic of royalty.

Descending into the neighbouring valley of El Assasif, we walked through the Tomb of Petamunap, who is commonly believed to have been High Priest in the reign of Pharaoh Necho, in the seventh century before Christ. This tomb is the largest in Thebes, and indeed is more remarkable for its extent than for anything else. I need not describe its halls and long galleries, its porches, pits, and stairways; nor give details of measurements farther than to adduce Wilkinson's statement that the total length of excavation, exclusive of lateral chambers, is 862 feet; the total area of excavation, 23,800 square feet; and it occupies nearly an acre and a quarter of ground. The walls are covered with hieroglyphs, much blackened and defaced; and with frequent representations of Petamunap and his wife sitting together with their arms encircling each other's necks. There are numerous niches that have been filled with statuettes, but these are all destroyed, and some larger statues have shared the same fate. Innumerable bats have taken possession of the tomb, and being disturbed by our lights they fly frantically about, masking with their wings a noise like a rushing wind. This, mingled with their curious chittering, produces an indescribable combination of sound. Also, there is a peculiar close, unpleasant odour pervading the place,—an odour compounded seemingly of bats and mummies. The natives here make very free with the ancient dead, for at the entrance I found several fire-places with half-consumed human bones. This burning of mummies is probably partly the origin of the strange nauseous smell. But what with the bats, and the smell, and the loose stones on the floor, and the blackness of the walls (rendering lighting up difficult), and occasional deep pits in the way, it is by no means a pleasant tomb to examine. Yet when newly-excavated in the white limestone, and fresh from the hands of sculptors and painters, it must have been a grand and beautiful subterranean abode, where, no doubt, its rich priestly owner had often spent a quiet afternoon on a hot summer day at Thebes, to withdraw his mind from worldly affairs, and to meditate on the unseen hereafter, of which the ancient Egyptians seem to have entertained very much the same views that modern Christians do. Or, perhaps, considering the style of decoration in most of these tombs, they may have been used in the lifetime of the deceased, officiating priests, &c. On the opposite wall we have fowling and fishing scenes, and some dried fish are hung up in a basket.

The next was the tomb numbered by Wilkinson 16. Thothmes IV. is seated on his throne receiving long processions. Some female musicians are very well drawn; their dresses are transparent so as to show their figures;—two play on guitars, one a harp, and one claps her hands. Near this is a troop of horses, but badly drawn. On the other side of the front chamber the owner of the tomb ("a royal scribe") is seen feasting his friends. His mother is seated with him, and he dandies on his knee a little girl, daughter of the king. The guests, seated on handsome chairs, are entertained with music, and served with wine and flowers and perfume. In another compartment we see an ox being slaughtered and cut up for the feast. A servant presents the head to a beggar,—at least so it was when Wilkinson described the tomb, but though the servant and head are still here the beggar has disappeared, and probably now graces a European museum. In the inner chamber is an interesting representation of the scribe being tested by the balance of Truth before admission into the presence of Osiris. Then follow processions engaged in the funeral ceremonies. The sarcophagus is placed on a sledge drawn by men and oxen, accompanied by female mourners, men bearing memorials of the deceased, officiating priests, &c. On the opposite wall we have fowling and fishing scenes, and some dried fish are hung up in a basket.

Wilkinson's No. 17 is now a good deal destroyed, but many of the beautiful vases, necklaces, and other ornaments painted on the walls are still visible. In the adjoining tomb (communicating with No. 17) the most interesting picture is a feast, where a numerous party are seated listening to music while waiting for a tardy guest. He is a person of consequence, for he drives up in his chariot attended by six running footmen. Being very late, he almost pulls the horses upon his chariot in his hurry to rein in, while one of the footmen rushes up to knock at the door. Be it remembered that this party came off about 3300 years ago.

I looked into a few more ruined tombs, but found nothing important; and as the day was now closing, I hastened back to the boat. There had been several new arrivals since morning, and we now muster eleven dahabites besides a steamer. Four of them are on our side of the river, and the rest at Luxor.

Next day (Sunday) we had an unpleasant change of weather. There was a light easterly wind in the morning, which soon changed to westward, and blew very strong, carrying with it blinding clouds of sand. We stayed on board during the day, having merely a short walk at sunset. The thermometer was 77 degrees at 8 a.m., and 87 degrees at 2 p.m. Cloudy sky.

March 11th.—Still blowing, but not so strongly as yesterday. I went again to Sheikh Abd-el-Gournah, to burrow among the tombs. Near the top of the hill is a long corridor cut in the rock. It runs parallel to the face of the hill, and has numerous openings; it has no paintings or sculptures. In a tomb below this corridor I found a troop of soldiers with shields, spears, and bows, and attended by a trumpeter; also a house and garden; vines trained among lotus columns, and men treading grapes. One of the most curious pictures is the branding of cattle. We see the iron heated on a charcoal fire; a young bullock is thrown down to be operated on, while the others are rushing wildly about, just as in an Australian stockyard. The next tomb to the westward is much

approach between rows of sphinxes, with gauways and obelisks at intervals, and finally a succession of terraces. Its founder was Queen Hatchepsut, daughter of Thothmes I., and regent during the minority of her young brother Thothmes III. It is tolerably clear that she kept him in a state of tutelage longer than was necessary or agreeable, and accordingly the young Thothmes seems to have cherished a spite against his haughty sister, and to have taken great pains to prevent the memory of her power and greatness being handed down to posterity. He was mean enough to have her name chiselled out wherever it occurs on the walls of the temples she built, and his own put in its place." I found a troop of *fellahs*, employed by Mariette, busy clearing out the ruins. The walls are covered with subjects beautifully sculptured in low relief, and richly painted—the style being of the best period of Egyptian art. On attempting to make some notes of the decorations I was prevented by the overseer of the labourers, who had been instructed by Mariette to allow no visitors to take any notes or sketches during the progress of the excavations. Among the leading groups sculptured on a large scale I noticed a king feeding the sacred bull Apis; some boats with numerous rowers, and sails both set and furled,—in one case I counted as many as twenty rowers on a side; large trees better depicted than usual; trees of considerable size carried in baskets, borne by six men; donkeys carrying burdens; large beam and scales employed in weighing gold. The larger weights were in the shape of a recumbent ox, the smaller or half weights an ox head, while quarter weights were in the form of oval balls. Many of the hieroglyphs, boldly cut in relief and richly coloured on a pale blue ground, had a fine pictorial effect. There was also a showy frieze formed of orange coloured seps. Behind these sculptured walls a granite pylon leads to a vault cut in the rock. The mouth is constructed of an arched form by means of large stones placed horizontally and projecting successively inwards till they meet in the centre, the interior angles being rounded off so as to form a circular curve.

From this point I returned to Sheikh Abd el Gournah, in order to wind up the day with a few more tombs. The first I entered had in its outer chamber a row of eight pillars in a line transverse to the entrance. Richly coloured pictures adorned the walls, and the roof was painted as if covered with pieces of carpet of about a dozen different patterns. The wall pictures were mostly of a religious character. Ramses VIII. (who reigned in the twelfth century B.C.) is seen presenting offerings to Thoth, the god of Truth and Justice. She occupies a highly decorated shrine overshadowed by winged figures, and placed in a boat carried by numerous priests. The boat and shrine are adorned with feathers, fans, and garlands of flowers, all painted on a large scale. The same Pharaoh is seen in another part making offerings to the god Amun. A procession of priests bring offerings to a deity with rams' horns and a crown of feathers and asps; and there are various other processions in this tomb.

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defaced, but among the paintings there is still visible a party of ladies gossiping and examining each other's ornaments. In the next tomb I saw depicted a fine collection of vases of very elegant shapes, returning eastward. I came upon a small tomb with bright colouring, but indifferent drawing. Besides agricultural scenes, and some operations that I could make nothing of, there was a party where the ladies sat on chairs with backs, and the gentlemen on stools. A servant is washing, or, perhaps, perfuming, a guest's hands, another brings a garland of flowers. The company are entertained by about a dozen musicians. I visited a few more tombs, but all much ruined; and then had another look at some of the fine ones that I inspected on Saturday. In the tomb of the "late guest" I noticed a pylon, with colossi before it, and flag-poles; also a goldsmith working with blowpipes and pincers; articles of jewellery; women carrying sistra, &c.

March 12th.—The weather is now cooler. Thermometer 55° at 8 a.m., and 65° at sunset.

Yesterday, Mr. H. discovered a very curious tomb in the valley between El Assasif and Abd el Gournah, and we all went to-day to have a look of it. In case any one who reads those notes should have an opportunity of going over the same ground, I may state that the entrance of the tomb in question bears east from the top of Abd el Gournah, and N.E. from the contiguous Coptic house. It is well worth visiting, and the native guides are not likely to lead one to it,—indeed, one of them that accompanied us persisted that there was nothing to see when he saw us preparing to crawl in. The entrance is nearly blocked up with rubbish, and we had to lie almost flat and wriggle in for a few yards till we got to a looser space, then jumping down a perpendicular depth of five or six feet, we found ourselves in a chamber covered with painting and sculpture. The most interesting scene were those connected with funeral rites. The coffin of the deceased stands upright, and women are lamenting before it; one throws dust on her head, another on her knees clasps the coffin in her arms; wild grief is strongly expressed by the whole group. In another compartment we see the heart of the dead man weighed against the symbol of Truth and Justice. The Goddess of Truth stands by one scale, and holds the symbol of Truth, resting on one knee and holding up his hands to check the scale if it should descend too far. A cynocephalus, emblem of the god Thoth, overlooks the proceedings from a shrine. It is his duty to note the result of the weighing, and report it to Osiris. Beside the pillar containing the symbol of Truth, resting on one knee and holding up his hands to check the scale if it should descend too far. A cynocephalus, emblem of the god Thoth, overlooks the proceedings from a shrine. It is his duty to note the result of the weighing, and report it to Osiris. 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## THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1863.



Department of Public Works

Sydney, 15th October, 1863.

**TENDERS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND SUPPLIES.**—Tenders are invited for the following Public Works and Supplies, to be fully described in the Government Gazette, a copy of which is kept at every Public Office in the colony. No tender will be taken into consideration, unless the terms of the notice be strictly complied with.

Nature of Works and Supplies. Date to which Tenders can be received at this Office.

Lock-up—Stony Creek Steam Tug for Newcastle Dredge Windsor and Richmond Railway—Piers—Wool Blackstock—South Creek and South Creek to Richmond Toll House and Gates at Green Swamp and Durack's, on the Great Western Road.

Toll House and Gate, at the Cross Roads between Birrion and Gooburn.

Well, C. & W. Waggon Lock-up—Sutler's Stores Bridge over the Lachlan at Cowra Fittings, Horse-shed, &c., Court-houses, Murrurundi, Court-houses, Wellington Great Southern Railway—Extension from Picton to Goulburn. Completion of Contract No. 1.

Great Southern Railway—Extension from Picton to Goulburn. Contract No. 6.

Court-house and Lockup, Wentworth.

W. M. ARNDT.

The Treasury, New South Wales, 5th October, 1863.

**CONTRACTS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE.—GAOL.**—DAWLINGHURST.—The contract of Mr. Charles Daublinghurst, architect, and other articles for the Gaol, Darlinghurst, have been awarded, and tenders given that tenders will be received at this office until noon of THURSDAY, the 15th instant, from persons willing to supply, from 1st October, 1863, to 31st March, 1864, the supplies required for that establishment, under the terms and conditions of Treasury notice of 6th January, 1863.

T. W. SMART.

**TENDERS FOR WATER POLICE HULK.**—TENDERS will be received at this office until noon on MONDAY, the 9th November, 1863, from persons willing to supply the Government of Queensland with a vessel of not less than 500 tons burthen, suitable for the service of a Water Police Hulk and Prison for 500 persons.

Parties tendering will state the ages of the vessels offered, the materials of which built, and all other particulars both as to vessel and as to stores, boats, furniture, tackle, &c., and must further mention the time within which, after inspection and approval, on the part of this Government, they will be required to have up the vessel, ready for service, within the harbour of Moreton Bay.

The amount to be paid by the tenderer will be underwritten, and being considerably in excess of any other. PRINCIPAL OFFICE.

**THE COLONIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**—(Incorporated by Special Act of Parliament.) Capital, £1,000,000.

Accrued Premiums, £40,000.

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Sydney Office, 325, George-street.

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J. L. Montagu, Esq., Chairman.

James Byrne, Esq.

J. M. Leigh, Esq.

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C. M. SMITH, Manager.

Royal Fire and Life Insurance Company of Liverpool and London.

Capital £2,000,000.

PITTSBURGH, U.S.A.

FRANCIS GILES and CO.

This Company effects transactions in the various branches of FIRE AND MARINE insurance.

The Directors meet daily for the dispatch of business.

Claims upon the Company are equitably adjusted and promptly paid.

Premiums are made payable in Sydney or London, at the option of the assured.

Forms of application, and every information, may be obtained at the Company's office, as above.

C. M. SMITH, Manager.

Great Southern Railway—Extension from Picton to Goulburn.

Contract No. 1.

Great Southern Railway—Extension from Picton to Goulburn.

Contract No. 6.

Court-house and Lockup, Wentworth.

12 o'clock noon, on Tuesday, 27th October.

W. M. ARNDT.

The Treasury, New South Wales, 5th October, 1863.

**CONTRACTS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE.—GAOL.**—DAWLINGHURST.—The contract of Mr. Charles Daublinghurst, architect, and other articles for the Gaol, Darlinghurst, have been awarded, and tenders given that tenders will be received at this office until noon of THURSDAY, the 15th instant, from persons willing to supply, from 1st October, 1863, to 31st March, 1864, the supplies required for that establishment, under the terms and conditions of Treasury notice of 6th January, 1863.

T. W. SMART.

**TENDERS FOR WATER POLICE HULK.**—TENDERS will be received at this office until noon on MONDAY, the 9th November, 1863, from persons willing to supply the Government of Queensland with a vessel of not less than 500 tons burthen, suitable for the service of a Water Police Hulk and Prison for 500 persons.

Parties tendering will state the ages of the vessels offered, the materials of which built, and all other particulars both as to vessel and as to stores, boats, furniture, tackle, &c., and must further mention the time within which, after inspection and approval, on the part of this Government, they will be required to have up the vessel, ready for service, within the harbour of Moreton Bay.

The amount to be paid by the tenderer will be underwritten, and being considerably in excess of any other. PRINCIPAL OFFICE.

SHUNDRON—WILLIAM RAE, Esq., C. H.

At the last annual meeting of this company a bonus was again declared to the policy holders (insured with us) equivalent to two per cent. on the amount of their policies for each year they have been current, and to this fact the attention of intending insureds is particularly invited.

First Class.—On buildings occupied as dwelling-houses or counting-houses only, from 3s to 6s 6d per cent. per annum.

Second Class.—On buildings occupied for the storage of goods, or for purposes of trade, from 3s to 11s 6d per cent.

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## MERCANTILE AND MONEY ARTICLE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

**THE AMOUNT OF CUSTOMS DUTIES PAID TO DAY IS AS FOLLOWS:**

Brony	... £218 5 0
Gin	... 266 10 0
Whisky	... 12 5 0
Rum	... 27 12 0
All other spirits	... 12 0 0
Wine	... 18 17 5
Ale, porter, and beer (in wood)	... 26 16 0
Porto wine and malmsey	... 12 0 0
Tea	... 6 0 0
Coffee and chicory	... 18 13 4
Sugar, unrefined	... 31 15 0
Gold	... 0 0 0
Opium	... 5 0 0
Pistachio	... 19 12 8
Dues	... 6 0 0
Total	... 492 4 6

The Government have made arrangements with the Bank of New South Wales for the continuance of the public account for a period of three years, at the same rate of interest, as formerly.

The half yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Sydney Insurance Company was held to-day, at two o'clock; Mr. M. E. Murray in the chair. The report was adopted unanimously, and a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent, per annum and bonus of 1s. per share was declared. The receipts of the past half-year for premiums amounted to £8828 1s. 9d. After the payment of the dividend, the amount to the credit of the contingent fund is £15,759 16s. 1d. The total amount at risk on the 30th September, 1863, is £3,793,904. Mr. J. Fairfax and Mr. R. Jones were re-elected directors, and Mr. Edward Lotze was re-elected an auditor.

A special general meeting of the proprietors of the Australian Gas-light Company was held to-day, the Hon. James Mitchell, Esq., in the chair. A resolution authorising the directors to make a call of £1 per share on the new shares was agreed to.

Mr. Thomas Dawson reports having sold, on Monday, at the Victoria Yards, Petersham, 128 head of fat cattle, belonging to Mr. Flood, at rates ranging from £4 13s. to £6 9s. per bullock, and £4 to £6 10s. for heifers, and at Calmey Hall, on Tuesday, 50 head of dairy cattle, at from 2s. to £5 10s. per head, and 22 horses, draught, from £10 to £27 10s. and young unbroken stock from 20s. to £10.

Messrs. W. Dean and Co. will sell by auction, to-morrow (this day), the cargo of American timber ex Maria J. Smith; also the stock-in-trade of Mr. T. McKeown, wholesale grocer.

From Messrs. Stables, Straker, and Co.'s Circular, dated London, August 15th, we extract the following:—

The departure for the Australian colonies from the United Kingdom have been more numerous than we have for some time had to record, but notwithstanding this fact, we have again to record the very moderate return of shipping, thicker, relatively with previous years. The number of vessels quoted (exclusive of New Zealand) is 38, registering 29,054 tons, with aggregate declared value of British goods amounting to £1,000,000, or £25,000 per vessel, or £26,384 per ton, so that we show a present net decrease of £83,554, a decided fall, although not to the extent we expected, is nevertheless of great interest. The shipping to Australia is mainly applicable to the Melbourne market, whilst the principal shipping to Adelaid and may therefore be looked upon as being in a corresponding position, as far as the demand and orders therefrom. In the corresponding months (July-August) the average shipping values are £83,684; the monthly decrease is therefore in favour of the present year by £16,000, a decrease which is especially marked when compared with the average export, since January, as compared with the same period of 1862, to which we had occasion to advert in our circular of 15th July.

Melbourne.—The departures for this port with Portland Bay and Geelong during the past month have been 17, of a registered cargo amounting to £1,000,000, and total value of British cargo £1,000,000. For the previous month the average return is £246,635, thus showing the very important decrease of £120,365. In August of 1862 we reported £1,000,000, and £219,549, against £233,413, showing a decrease of £13,864. Considerable shipping advantage has been obtained in the month of June, as can be seen from the following figures stated at £348,389, a difference of £16,000.

To Adelaid the departures have been on a larger scale than usual, hence we have a corresponding increase in declared value equal to £47,748, the figure for the past month being £119,553, a difference of £71,805. The departure for Hobart Town and one for Launceston during the month, were reported at £35,430. The departure for Moreton Bay during the month under notice vary little as compared with its predecessor, being £219,549, against £233,413, showing a decrease of £13,864. Considerable shipping advantage has been obtained in the month of June, as can be seen from the following figures stated at £348,389, a difference of £16,000.

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